



SHRINE OF
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
PRAYER FOR PILGRIMAGES

Groups may pray the following to formally begin the public pilgrimage. The chaplain or any layman may lead the prayers. The following prayers are from the Votive Mass For Pilgrims and Travelers (1962), modified for the occasion.

Opening Prayer:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O Lord, hear our humble prayers, and set Thy servants in the path of Thy salvation; that amid all the changes of this life, we may be ever sheltered by Thy help. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis: (28:11-15, 18, 20-22)

Jacob came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." So, Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you."

V. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God. (Observe a brief moment of silence.)

Direct our steps according to Thy promise, and let no iniquity have dominion over us. We rejoiced when they said to us, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
(*Psalm 119:133 & 122:1*) **(Observe a brief moment of silence.)**

A Reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew: (10:7-14)

As you go, proclaim the good news, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons: freely have you received, freely give. Take no gold, nor silver, nor money in your purses: no bag for your journey, nor two coats, nor shoes, nor a staff; for the laborer deserves his food. And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it, and stay with him until you depart. As you enter the house, salute it, saying: Peace be to this house. And if that house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ. **(Observe a brief moment of silence.)**

Pilgrimage Reflection

Pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place for the purpose of honoring God and His Saints, in thanksgiving, to petition, to fulfill a promise, or as a penance. It is an ancient devotion, first commanded by God to our Hebrew forebears. As we've heard in the Book of Genesis, Jacob places a stone under his head during his journey. Here, the stone is the Lord, upon whom we ought to support ourselves with all our concentration, the more we do, the more it becomes clear to us that without Him we can do nothing. In St. Matthew's Gospel, our Lord sends His Church on a sacred journey so that we may deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and leave behind our daily lives to follow Him (*cf. Matthew 16:24-25*). Leaving one's comfort and journeying to a strange place is a proven way to encounter spiritual renewal and healing. Pilgrimage is a way to "lose" our lives for His sake and find them anew.

Concluding Prayer:

Let us Pray. Perfect O Lord, our walk in Thy path, that our footsteps be not moved: incline Thy ear unto us and hear our words: show forth Thy wonderful mercies, Thou Who saves them that trust in Thee. We ask this through our Good Shepard, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen. Empress of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us! In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(It is encouraged to conclude by singing a Hymn of preference.)